

# IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT & INDEPENDENCE FOR THE BLIND AND VISION IMPAIRED

## HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2013*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as May is Vision Loss Awareness Month, it is my pleasure to recognize and support the AbilityOne Program. The AbilityOne Program, established by the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, is the nation's largest initiative that provides career opportunities to more than 50,000 people who are blind or have other significant disabilities. Seven out of 10 working age Americans who are blind or visually impaired are not employed. Through this program, people with disabilities have the opportunity to gain greater independence and quality of life, and enjoy and benefit from participation in their communities.

There are over 600 community-based non-profit agencies nationwide that participate in the AbilityOne Program. Lighthouse Central Florida, located in Orlando, Florida, is one of the agencies across the country associated with the AbilityOne program to provide individuals who are blind or visually impaired with rehabilitative services, job training and employment opportunities. In August 2012, I was fortunate to visit and tour the Lighthouse Central Florida facility, its recent expansion Lighthouse Works!, and their new call center. On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I commend the efforts of Lighthouse Central Florida and the investments they are making in the lives of individuals with vision loss to provide them with job training, work experience and other tools necessary to lead independent, successful lives.

In addition, the AbilityOne Program network manufactures a wide array of products and services such as the National Industries for the Blind's (NIB) SKILCRAFT® brand, which encompasses over 3,000 items including janitorial equipment, office supplies, medical supplies, tools, and uniforms. I am pleased to support the AbilityOne Program and NIB's initiatives by purchasing SKILCRAFT® products for use in my District office.

Federal and state governments save more than \$33 million a year through the excellent work being done through the AbilityOne Program. Over the past 75 years, AbilityOne has enriched the lives of individuals who are blind or have other significant disabilities, and over the past 37 years, Lighthouse Central Florida has educated, trained, and helped 100,000 blind and vision impaired individuals. I applaud the efforts of those involved, and I wish them many more years of quality service to our nation.

## HONORING JERRICK JACKSON

## HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2013*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I present the following U.S. Citizen of Distinction.

Whereas, we are gathered to celebrate the life of Mr. Jerriek Jackson, one of DeKalb County's favorite sons; and

Whereas, Jerriek Jackson was born to Wiley "Chief" Jackson, Sr., and Bobbie Lois Jackson, on April 19, 1966, he was educated in the DeKalb County Public Schools, later working for Delta Airlines and Norfolk Southern Railroad as a conductor; and

Whereas, he was a young man who believed and lived a life for God, country, community and family; and

Whereas, Jerriek Jackson gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life with unwavering commitment to his family; and

Whereas, he was a son, a brother and a friend; he was a man who enjoyed life, savoring the moments with his family and his companion Kimberly E. Little and her daughter, AnBiya Y. Mitchell; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia recognizes Mr. Jerriek Jackson as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby attest to the 113th Congress that Mr. Jerriek Jackson is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Honor" by declaring Mr. Jerriek Jackson, U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia

Proclaimed, this 13th day of May, 2013.

# RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY FOR ITS SERVICE OVER THE LAST 100 YEARS

## HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2013*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the One Hundredth Anniversary of the American Cancer Society.

Originally founded as the American Society for the Control of Cancer in 1913, the American Cancer Society promotes awareness and education, in addition to demonstrating an unmatched determination and commitment in supporting patients, survivors, and their families.

In 1944, the American Cancer Society began the prioritizing of cancer research and has to date been the largest non-governmental funder of cancer research. The American Cancer Society was instrumental in the passage of the Cancer Act of 1971, which established the National Cancer Institute to advance the detection of cancer and the application of cutting edge treatments.

Thanks in part to the American Cancer Society, the number of cancer deaths in America declined for the first time in history in 2006 and continues to decline today. The Society has made an incredible impact in the race to find the cure. Not only has the American Cancer Society been directly responsible for saving the lives of millions, but also for providing a light of hope in times of despair.

Relay for Life, which is the largest grassroots fundraising event in the world, was originally founded by an American Cancer Society volunteer over twenty years ago. Relay for Life is undoubtedly one of the most emotionally powerful group fundraising events, raising more than three billion dollars to date. This laudable event brings the Nation together to provide hope and strength amongst all those impacted by cancer.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I congratulate the American Cancer Society and

its courageous members on the monumental impact they've made over the last one hundred years. My wife Vicki joins me in offering our best wishes in the fight against cancer and for the success of the American Cancer Society.

## TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2013*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Danville, Illinois upon the 150th Anniversary of the church. The church celebrated this special occasion on April 25, 2013 with a festival divine service and banquet.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church was founded on February 15, 1863 when 14 members signed the constitution which formed the congregation. The first ordained pastor was Gottfried Markworth, who also started Lutheran day school education in Danville, which is celebrating 150 years as well. The congregation moved to the current building on Main Street on April 25, 1915. Today, the church has 727 baptized members and the Pastor is Kent Tibben.

I extend my congratulations to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church upon this special occasion. It is my prayer that the Lord blesses them with many more years of service.

## CLEBRATING MINNESOTA MARRIAGE EQUALITY

## HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2013*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today is a historic day for Minnesota. Marriage equality will become the law in our state, and I stand with my fellow Minnesotans to celebrate the equality of love and access to civil rights for all families. I applaud the courageous legislators who voted with their hearts for justice and equality for all families.

I am inspired by the dedication and compassion of all those who have worked to make the freedom to marry a reality in our state. Just two years ago, a hurtful and discriminatory amendment was proposed to constitutionally exclude Minnesota's same-sex couples from marriage. Yet through countless thoughtful conversations and the brave sharing of personal stories, a coalition was built that defeated the amendment.

Here in Washington I am mindful that much work remains to be done. Same-sex couples who will soon be legally married in Minnesota will still not be federally recognized because the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) discriminates against them. These couples will be denied more than 1,000 federal rights and benefits that their neighbors are eligible to receive. I will continue to work to repeal DOMA and I hope in the coming weeks the U.S. Supreme Court will rule it unconstitutional.

All Americans deserve to be treated equally under the law. I look forward to the day when